By the King.

A Proclamation for the preuenting of the exportation of Woolles, Woolle-fels, Yarne, Fullers earth, and Woad-aſhes, and for the better vent of Cloth, and Stuffe made of Wooll, within this Kingdome.

HAuing vnderſtood by the generall complaints of Our louing Subiects from the ſeuerall parts of this Our Realme of England, that of late yeeres the Woolles of this Our Kingdome are exceedingly fallen from their Woonted values, and that the Cloth and Stuffes of this Our Kingdome, haue not that vent in forraine parts which formerly they haue had: Wee taking theſe things, and the weightie conſequence thereof, into Our Princely conſideration, as matter of very great importance to the Wealth and Welfare of this Our Kingdome, and being carefull to prouide a ſpeedy and effectuall remedy againſt ſuch a growing euill, and to the end that the honeſt Clothiers, and thoſe painefull Workfolkes that depend vpon them, might bee comforted in their labours, and bee incouraged in their trades, and the Woolles and manufactures of Woolles reſtored to their Wonted eſtimation; Haue therefore ſeriouſly and often aduiſed with Our Priuie Counſell for the good of Our people; and the better to be informed, both of the true cauſes, and the fitteſt remedies, thought it expedient, firſt to nominate a Committee of twelue perſons of quality and knowne abilities, not onely to informe themſelues out of their owne obſeruations and iudgements, but alſo by conference with diuers Knights and Gentlemen of ſeuerall Counties, Merchants of diuers Societies, Clothiers of ſeuerall clothing-Shires, and with all ſuch others as they in their opinions thought fit, and then afterwards to make report to Vs and Our Priuie Counſell of their proceedings in that behalfe.

Which Committee, according to Our truſt in them repoſed, haue with great care and diligence trauelled therein, and exactly inquired both into the cauſes, and after the remedies, and made their report vnto Vs accordingly: Whereupon, and after aduiſe taken with Our Priuie Counſell, we finde amongſt other things of moment, That the exportation of Woolles, Woolle-fels, Woollen yarne, Fullers earth, and Woad-aſhes, are a great meanes to inable the forraigne making of Cloth, and a principall impediment to the vent of Our Clothes made in England; And that the falſe and deceitfull making, dying, and dreſſing of Our Cloth and Stuffes heere made of Woolles, doth exceedingly diſgrace and diſcredit the Drapery of this Our Kingdome, and doth very much hinder the vent of theſe commodities.

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We therfore out of the great desire We haue to aduance the wealth of Our people, & by all meanes possible to cherish and comfort their labours, doe by these presents straitely charge and command, that no manner of Woolles, Woolle-fels, Woollen yarne, Cornish-hayre, Fullers earth, Woad ashes, be at any time or times hereafter, exported out of this Our Realme of England, Dominion of Wales, Towne or Port of Barwicke, or any the Iles, Ports, Creekes, or places therof, into any forraine parts, or into Our Kingdome of Scotland, nor that any maner of Woolls, Wooll-fels, Woollen yearne, Fullers earth, or Woad-ashes, be transported out of Our Kingdome of Ireland, into any other parts then into the Realme of England onely, vpon paine of confiscation of all such Woolles, and other the premisses so transported, or endeuoured to be transported, as also of Our highest indignation, and the seuerest censure of Our Court of Starre-chamber, and of such other paines and penalties as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Kingdome, and by Our Prerogatiue Royall may bee inflicted.

And to the end that all Officers and Ministers in, or about Our Ports of England, may the more strictly looke to the obseruance of this Our Will and pleasure, for the weale of this Our Kingdome; We do further straitly charge and command, that if any Officer or Minister of or belonging to Our Customes or Ports, or attending at any the Hauens, Creekes, or places adiacent, or carrying to the Sea, shall consent or connive at the vnlawfull exportation of the premisses, or any of them: Or if any of them shall make any certificate vpon any cocket of the landing of any Woolles in any Ports of this Our Realme, vnlesse the Officer himselfe, who shall make such certificate, do first see the same Wools landed, according to the contents of the sayd certificate: Or if the sayd Officers or any of them shall make any cocket, which shall not conteine both the number of Sackes, and the weight of the Wooll in euery Sack conteyned in such cocket; That then euery such Officer and Minister, who shall offend in any the premisses, shall not onely forfeit his Office, place, and employment, but shall also incurre all other the paynes and penalties aforesayd. And if any Minister or Officer of, or in any ship or other Vessell, shall permit and suffer any Woolles, Wooll-fels, or any other of the premisses to bee transported in any Ship, Bottome, or other Vessell, wherein, or whereof he is or shall bee Master, or other Officer; That then euery person so offending shall be subiect vnto such paines and penalties as aforesayd.

And in case there be now in force any former Licences or authorities heeretofore giuen and granted by Us, or any of Our Predecessors, for transportation of Woolles, or any other the premisses, We doe heereby reuoke and disanull the same; And are resolued, that none such hereafter shall bee granted: And for the better vtterance of Cloth within this Our Kingdome, Wee doe straitly charge and command, that when, and as often as vpon the occasion of any Burials or Funerals, any Blacks be hereafter giuen or worne; That then such blackes and mourning stuffes shall bee onely of Cloth and Stuffes, made of the Wooll of this Kingdome, and not elsewhere, nor otherwise.

And for that Wee are informed that the false dying of Cloth and Stuffes made of Woolls, is a great hinderance to the vent of those commodities: Therefore We straitly Will and command, That no person whatsoeuer in, or towards the dying of any Cloth, of what sort soeuer, or of any Stuffes made of Wooll, shall vse any Logwood or Blockewood, the vse whereof about the sayd Clothes and Stuffes, hath so often by seuerall Lawes and Proclamations beene already condemned: And for the better discouery of false and deceauable dying, and the suppressing of the sayd Logwood and Blockewood, in and about the dying of Stuffes made of Wooll, Wee straitly charge and command the Wardens of the Diers of London, Within the compasse of their search, and all other Officers in other places, That from time to time they make carefull & diligent search for the discouery of all false and deceitfull dying: and if in their searches they shall finde any Cloth or Stuffe died with Logwood or Blockewood, either in all or in part, That they seaze the same, and informe Our Attorney Generall for the time being thereof, that such proceeding may be speedily had against the offenders, as so great a contempt deserueth.

Further, We doe hereby straitly charge and command all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Officers, and other persons whatsoeuer, to doe their best endeuours to discouer all and euery the offenders against this Our Proclamation. And for the better encouragement of all such as shall take care and paines to make such discoueries, Our Will and pleasure is, that euery such person that shall be the first discouerer of such offender, shall be rewarded with the moity, or one halfe of such summes of money as shall come vnto Us by vertue of any forfeiture incurred vpon this Our Proclamation, Giuing also like charge and command, that all persons of what degree, quality or place soeuer, to whom it shall appertaine, doe diligently obserue, and readily assist the due performance of this Our Proclamation in all things.

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Alſo We doe hereby thinke good to declare to all Our louing Subiects, that, for the more equall ballancing of trade, furthering of Commerce, increaſing of Marchandize, remouing of impediments of Trade, and applying of remedies, according to the variation of occaſions, and for diuers other waighty matters, much importing the enriching and flouriſhing eſtate of this Our kingdome of England, We are reſolued forthwith, by Commiſſion vnder Our great Seale of England, to authorize ſome ſelect perſons to be Our Commiſſioners, who ſhall take into their ſpeciall care and conſideration the cauſes and matters aforeſaid, and they from time to time to make report thereof to the Body of our priuie Counſell, whereupon, We with the aduiſe of Our priuie Counſell, ſhall apply ſuch further helpe in each particular as ſhalbe apteſt and fitteſt for ſo great a worke.

And for the better proceeding in this Our intenſion, to the honour and weale of all Our Kingdomes, We are alſo reſolued, with all conuenient ſpeed, to giue directions, that ſome Commiſſioners out of Our Kingdome of Scotland, ſhall meet and conferre with Our Commiſſioners to be authorized by Us in this Our Realme of England, to aduiſe of the beſt way, how the Woolles of that Our kingdome of Scotland, which ſhall not there be draped, may be brought hither into England, and here from time to time bee bought vp and employed in the Draperie of this kingdome.

Giuen at Our Mannour of Otelands, the eight and twentieth day of Iuly, in the twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the fiue and fiftieth.

God ſaue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill,
Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie.
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